

## **Northampton Council on Aging Meeting**

**Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:00 pm**

**Virtual:**

**Zoom:**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83085735202?pwd=SGRmU2EzRzZqTGd4NVk0](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83085735202?pwd=SGRmU2EzRzZqTGd4NVk0QVM1WmQvZz09)

**QVM1WmQvZz09 Meeting ID: 83085735202 Passcode: 834485**

### **COA Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Cindy Langley called the meeting to order @ 5:03 pm

**Present:** Kim Park, Laura Scott, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Robert Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Michael Ford, Anne “Val” Romano, & Cynthia Langley (Carolyn Sandel has resigned)

**Informal Group Discussion:** City Council has approved the change from a maximum of 15 COA board members to 9. The board also spoke on term limits as all would be up next year if changes are not made

**Review minutes & approve January minutes:**

- A motion was made to accept the minutes by Michael Ford & 2nd by Jean Henry Hoose

**Director’s Report:**

- We have hired for the 4 positions that were open: Program Coordinator, Anjuli Waybright, Media/Marketing Coordinator, Megan Knight, Staff Assistant, Olivia Bonebo, and Principal Clerk, Jodi Page. We are happy to have them join our team. There is still the possibility of hiring one more staff assistant
- Transportation needs continue to be addressed through grant funding
- We have added 163 new members since the beginning of the year
- The artist of the month is Ellen Koteen. Arts Night Out will be held on April 14th
- The author of the month is Andrea Veras. She will have a presentation on April 20th here

- at the Center. This will be an intergenerational talk as her books are geared to ages 7-12
- **Tech Help** has resumed with **Northampton High School** students. We are happy to offer individual time slots as well as some group workshops. Cindy mentioned a COA \$100,000 grant available for technology equipment that we should look into for the Center
- We have added ukulele & drumming classes, a jam session, and an Italian class
- **Northampton Fire Dept** will hold another **Health & Wellness** clinic on **May 16th**. They offer “safe at home” visits as well
- **NW District Attorney’s** will hold a “trivia” consumer affairs lunch & learn
- **Community Nurses Elliott and Kelly** from the **Department of Health and Human Services** continue to have drop in hours at the **Senior Center** on **Thursdays** from **12:30-2:30**. They will have a lunch & learn program on **6/30**
- We have continued partnerships with **TRIAD & AARP**
- **Central Services** is still looking into the window replacements in the building. The **Great Room** will be the next step in this process

#### **Old Business:**

- **Age Friendly planning:** the 3 objectives for this year are a comprehensive resource directory (the Center already has one in place), a dementia friendly task force focusing on education and outreach, and inward review of city policies, language & communication. The initiative needs to begin with the Senior Center around language. The mission statement needs to be reviewed and updated. Val offered help with any changes in wording that might be needed.

#### **New Business:**

- **Should COA meetings stay virtual only?** Some discussions are better when the group is all in person. For now, the option to meet every other month on zoom is being explored with the May meeting on zoom only
- **The mayor** has had some applications from community members to become members. Applying to the mayor is the first step in becoming a COA member

**Next Meeting:** May 11th, 2022, 5:00 pm, Zoom only

**Adjournment :** Motion to adjourn was made by Val Romano & 2nd by Michael Ford

Meeting adjourned @ 6:03 pm